

Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) Apparatus for providing an enclosure in locations of elevated pressure, the apparatus comprising:

an inner housing comprising an inner housing body and two opposing inner housing ends;

an outer housing comprising an outer housing body and two opposing outer housing ends;

the inner housing being disposed fully within the outer housing, the inner and outer housings defining an annular cavity therebetween; and

a structural filler within the cavity extending between the outer housing and the inner housing, the structural filler comprising a plurality of spaced apart structural members for transferring stress between spaced apart regions of the inner surface of the outer housing to corresponding spaced apart regions of the outer surface of the inner housing, the structural members occupying less than 60 % of the volume of the cavity occupied by the structural filler.

2. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the structural members occupy less than 50% of the volume of the cavity occupied by the structural filler.

3. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the structural members occupy less than 25% of the volume of the cavity occupied by the structural filler.

4. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the structural members extend circumferentially within the cavity.

5. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the structural members extend at an angle to the longitudinal axis of the apparatus.

6. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the structural members comprise a honeycomb material.

7. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the honeycomb is metal or a polymer.

8.-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the structural members are of an I-beam configuration or are tubular.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim ~~11~~ 10, wherein the structural members extend helically around the longitudinal axis within the cavity.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim ~~13~~ 12, wherein the structural members are tubular having a circular cross-section and contain a pressurized fluid in order to pre-stress the structural member to resist compressive hydrostatic forces.

15.-22 (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein at least one of the inner housing or the outer housing comprises a fibre-reinforced matrix comprising one or more fibres extending helically with respect to the longitudinal axis of the apparatus, each fibre extending at an angle of from 25° to 85° to the longitudinal axis of the apparatus.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 23~~either of claims 23 or 24~~, wherein each fibre extends at an angle of from 35° to 65° to the longitudinal axis of the apparatus.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 25~~any of claims 23 to 26~~, wherein the at least one of the inner housing or the outer housing comprises a plurality of layers of fibre-reinforced matrix, one of a pair of adjacent layers having one or more fibres extending at an angle of x° to the longitudinal axis and the second of the pair of adjacent layers having one or more fibres extending at an angle of $360-x^\circ$ to the longitudinal axis.

28. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 27, wherein x is an angle in the range of from 45° to 65°.

29.-87 (Cancelled)

88. (Previously presented) A method of deploying a buoyancy apparatus at an underwater location where buoyancy is required, which apparatus has a fluid-tight cavity capable of accommodating a liquid, the method comprising:

- ballasting the apparatus by filling the fluid-cavity with a liquid to an extent necessary to provide the appropriate level of buoyancy;
- positioning the apparatus at the said location; and
- withdrawing the liquid from the fluid-tight cavity.

89. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 88, wherein the liquid is withdrawn by means of a reciprocating piston moved within a cylinder.

90. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 89, wherein the liquid is withdrawn by repeated operations of the reciprocating piston through a cycle comprising:

- movement of the piston in a first direction to draw liquid from the fluid-tight cavity into the cylinder;

movement of the piston in a second direction, opposite the first, to eject liquid from the cylinder to a location other than the fluid-tight cavity.

91. (Cancelled)

92. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 91, wherein the liquid is water and the water is ejected into the environment.

93.-102 (Cancelled).